

BOOK REVIEWS.

DISEASES OF THE BREAST, with Special Reference to Cancer. By WILLIAM L. RODMAN, M.D., LL.D., Professor of Surgery in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, 1908.

The present treatise forms a connecting link between our present-day knowledge of it and the works of Cooper and Gross on this subject. Although the author's own opinions are expressed most positively, due consideration has been given to those of other well-known operators and investigators, as is indicated by continual references. The literature of the subject has been very exhaustively reviewed. Statistical investigations seem to have been accorded a most careful review, and the results derived from the compilation of the reports of many hospitals give the author opportunity to draw conclusions from a much larger number of cases than any that have been published hitherto, and are in some instances at variance with those which are usually accepted. Thus, for example, a study of a large number of cases of tumor shows that benign growths are more frequent than they have been supposed to be; and, again, that sarcoma is less frequent. The more important of these statistics are shown graphically in order that the relative frequency, age, incidence, etc., of various neoplasms can be seen more readily without having to refer to the text.

Carcinoma, as might naturally be supposed, is given the greatest amount of consideration; its pathology, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis and treatment are very fully and analytically discussed, and throughout one is impressed continually with the strong plea which the author makes for early and radical operative interference, stating quite positively that such treatment will offer a cure of the disease in a large number of cases. The most approved operative procedures are described in detail and the relative value of each discussed, the successive steps of the opera-

tion being plainly portrayed in numerous illustrations. The author's technic is shown in ten full-page plates.

The author states that when a carcinomatous tumor is situated in the upper hemisphere it is his custom to make a supraclavicular incision and to explore the posterior triangle of the neck. And, again, on page 296, he states that the chain of lymphatic vessels passes from the breast over the clavicle to empty into glands in the posterior cervical triangle. The importance of the subject would perhaps have warranted some more specific and detailed directions on this head. Attention might well be directed to the fact that there is a distinct set of vessels draining the upper part of the breast, which passes over the clavicle into the supraclavicular glands; also that there is a subclavian channel given off from the posterior surface of the mamma, which, after perforating the pectoralis major, runs between this muscle and the pectoris minor to empty into the subclavian glands; the former are situated for the most part in the supraclavicular triangle—or, as it is possibly better called, the subclavian triangle—bearing also an intimate relation to the sternocleidomastoid muscle, and, further, have tributaries extending to the apex of the anterior triangle, particularly in its inferior carotid or muscular section. Thus in removing any traces of metastasis, the lymphatic chain which bears an intimate relation to the subclavian vein, and those which are in relation to the sternocleidomastoid muscle, and, again, those which are found in the lower portion of the anterior triangle, should also be sought for and dissected out, as well as those which the author seeks in his exploration of the subclavian triangle. It is probably this that he has intended to convey in the text and that it is only the phraseology used which makes it confusing.

The inflammatory diseases of the breast, the chronic, infectious granulomata and benign neoplasms have been accorded the space which their importance deserved. Particular attention should be called to the chapter on tuberculosis and to the method of removing benign neoplasms by Warren's operation of plastic resection of the breast.

The illustrations of the book are exceptional in their number, accuracy of portrayal and beauty of execution, many being in colors which are very realistic.

DISEASES OF THE RECTUM, ANUS, AND SIGMOID COLON. By F. SWINFORD EDWARDS, F.R.C.S., Senior Surgeon to St. Mark's Hospital for Diseases of the Rectum; Surgeon to the West London Hospital, etc. Third Edition; Octavo; 442 pages; 102 illustrations. London: J. & A. Churchill, Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1908.

The last edition of this book, published sixteen years ago, had become more or less obsolete, so that a complete revision has been necessitated in order to bring it up to present-day teachings on the subjects treated. To the former work have been added chapters on the sigmoidoscope and the operative treatment of malignant disease of the rectum and sigmoid colon. The chapters on fistula, procidentia recti, sigmoidopexy and colotomy have been especially amplified. The author, in dealing with the subject of hemorrhoids, makes particular mention of the Salmon operation, it being, in his experience, the most expedient; exception, I think, may be taken by many men to this conclusion. The procedures, as described in the operative treatment of malignant disease, are, in many cases, not clear; certainly there is much more to be said on the subject than has been stated in this book.

The trend of the work impresses one as schematic, in many instances, the treatment of the various conditions being merely indicated, and not specifically stated. The book forms, as a whole, rather a review of the work of the author himself during the past thirty years, than a comprehensive review of other authorities, and may be better appreciated by the specialist than by the general practitioner, while the personal element really adds to the interest and value of the book.

A SYNOPSIS OF SURGERY. By ERNEST W. HEY GROVES. John Wright & Sons, Ltd., Bristol, 1908, pp. 486.

“Epitomes” and “synopses” are sometimes pitfalls instead of aids to the student. If they encourage him to mere memorizing they are certainly harmful. On the other hand, if they are associated with and subordinate to wider and fuller teachings, and used only as jogs to memory, not as the main source of information, they may be of great value.

With this limitation, Mr. Hey Groves’ “Synopsis” is worthy of hearty commendation.

It is based on sound teachings, is systematic, and is full enough to present the salient facts of surgical practice in an orderly and convenient manner, so arranged by means of headings, type and indented margins that they can be easily and rapidly referred to.

The book gives internal evidence of having been made up, as the author states, from notes used in preparing students for examinations, but there is little to criticise. There are trifling omissions, *e.g.*, there is no description of fractures of the foot, or of its separate bones, or of fracture of the sternum; and under Potts' fracture there is no adequate mention of the common posterior subluxation; and there are a few slight errors of fact,—thus it is said that in cases of loose body in the knee-joint “locking does not occur,” which is much too absolute; occasionally the English is not above reproach,—in the treatment of antral disease one method recommended is “removal of offending tooth and drainage through a metal tube inserted *into this*”; and there are a few typographic errors,—“Fracture of Scapular” (in index).

On the whole, however, it is a very good book, and if one were asked to name a better one of its kind and size it would be found difficult to do so.

EMERGENCY SURGERY, FOR THE GENERAL PRACTITIONER. By JOHN W. SLUSS, A.M., M.D., Professor of Anatomy, Indiana University School of Medicine. With 584 illustrations. P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 1908.

This book forms the fifth in a series of eight medical manuals which are to be published by P. Blakiston's Son & Company. The volume is of convenient size to be carried by the general practitioner and lends itself to this end by its flexible cover and rounded corners. It does not in any way attempt to take the place of any of the larger text-books of surgery, and does not go into various methods of operative procedure; the most approved method being usually the only one mentioned. The illustrations are profuse and instructive, particularly those illustrating the reduction of hip and shoulder dislocations. Consideration of some of the subjects cannot really be included under the head of emergency surgery; that, however, does not detract from the usefulness of the book.